

"D'Evereux," Natchez, Mississippi.

Adams Co.

HABS No. 17 - 6

HABS  
MISS.

1- NATCH. V

2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 17

Historic American Buildings Survey  
A. Hays Town, District Officer  
Standard Life Building  
Jackson, Mississippi

HABS  
MISS.

1. Natchez

2.

D' EVEREUX  
Near Natchez  
Adams County  
Mississippi

Owner: Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith.

Date of Erection: 1840 (completed).

Architect: Hardy.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Brick and stucco.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

D E V E R E U X

Near Natchez Adams County Mississippi

The Greek Revival Home, "D'Evereux," was completed in 1840, but the materials for its construction were collected over a space of time that insured perfect preparation and thorough seasoning. All the brick were made from Natchez clay. The plans were drawn by an Architect named Hardy. It was built for Mr. William St. John Elliott and his wife, the daughter of Mr. William Conner of Second Creek, and was given the name in deference to Mr. Elliott's mother, who was a Miss D'Evereux.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were the donors of the original land and building known as the D'Evereux Catholic Orphan Asylum, which also perpetuated the family name.

For a time the Elliotts enjoyed their magnificent home and entertained an almost constant stream of guests, many of whom were nation celebrities. To all, both rich and poor, they dispensed the same lordly hospitality.

The Mistress of D'Evereux was a woman of great charm and tact, known as an ideal "Southern lady," and Mr. Elliott was a close personal friend of Henry Clay. The great Orator not only visited Mr. Elliott, but while a guest at D'Evereux, had his portrait painted by a French artist, Bahin. This splendid but little known likeness of Mr. Clay passed to heirs of the family, and is still in Natchez.

In the ante-bellum days the gardens of D'Evereux were famous, being planned and executed by a European gardener.

D'Evereux's chief fame rests perhaps on the fact that in ante-bellum days it was the scene of a ball, the most elaborate ever held in the state, given in honor of Mr. Clay, at the climax of his last visit, and the story of this ball has been told for generations until it has become almost hallowed tradition.

A few years later the Civil War marred the beauty of D'Evereux's garden and grounds. Union troops poured in by the hundred and the beautiful gardens of D'Evereux were turned into a camp ground. Horses grazed in the rose beds and drank from the lily pool, while giant oaks and magnolias were chopped down for fuel.

It was at D'Evereux that two Union soldiers were executed, following their court martial for the killing of George Sargent at "Gloucester."

D'Evereux is now owned and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith.

Compiled from data of  
Stuart Cuthbertson  
Mrs. Wyatt Moore

## D ' E V E R E U X

Near Natchez Adams County Mississippi

On the old "Natchez Trace," less than a mile north east of Natchez, is "D'Evereux," one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in Mississippi. Glimpses of the home, with its six tall Greek columns, may be seen from the road through moss draped trees.

This simple, dignified building is impressive and extremely interesting. It is built of brick covered with stucco, lightly scored to imitate stone jointing. The stucco, once white, has become vari-colored and mellow with age, and produces a most harmonious effect with dark green blinds and dull red roof.

The house and slave quarters present a picturesque mass. The house with its large fluted Greek columns on the front and similar unfluted columns on the rear supports a heavy Greek moulded cornice from which springs the four cornered hip roof of standing seam tin, terminating in a square shaped cupola surrounded by wood bannisters. The rear porch has been remodeled by the present owners, and two of the column bays have been filled in.

The slave quarters, a small low ceilinged two-story building, is quite as interesting as the house itself. The end which may be seen with the front of the house is a stuccoed brick wall, with a gable parapet stepped up in two straight breaks, sufficiently high to hide the low pitched roof. In the gable is an elliptical window with designed cross wood muntins, beneath which is a colonial arched window with curved cross muntins in the sash.

Across the left of the quarters is a two-story gallery and exposed stair. There is an ornamental cast iron leaf cresting completely across and around the gallery eave beams. The exposed materials are similar to the house itself. Upon approach of the main steps of the home the immediate center of interest is the splayed Greek frame of the doorway with the unusually delicate wrought-iron balcony above. The wrought and cast ornamental work of the balcony approaches perfection in craftsmanship and design. The porch ceiling has an ornate cornice in plaster, which is lost except upon close inspection.

.The plan of the house is typical of the Period. A large through central hall for dancing; the stairway is a separate side hall. The rooms both on the first and second floors are large almost square rooms, symmetrically placed.

.The most interesting details of the interior are the plaster cornices and ceiling center pieces, and the splayed and paneled window jambs. All principal rooms have marble mantels. All of the hardware was silver plated.

.The structural members as well as the exposed exterior wood is cypress. All structural timber is mortised and tenoned and pegged with wood pins. The roof is supported by heavy timber trusses. The central hall partitions are solid brick and other partitions are wood studs with wood lath and plaster.

.D'Evereux stands today with little change from its original state.